



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/558,787	04/26/2000	Yuriko Kishitaka	SONYJP3.0-114	1701

530 7590 07/08/2003

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK  
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST  
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

EXAMINER

LONSBERRY, HUNTER B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2611

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

*J*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/558,787

Applicant(s)

KISHITAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Hunter B. Lonsberry

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,892,508 to Howe in view of U.S. Patent 5,978,855 to Metz and U.S. Patent 5,684,791 to Raychauduri.

Regarding claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 15 Howe discloses a set top box 100 in figure 8 which receives an analog or digital video signal, a digital tuner 1218 supplies a digital video signal to video decoder 1220, CPU 1228 manages and controls set top box 100 and is connected to memory 1229 and 1230 (column 20, line 46-column 22, line 52). Howe does not disclose determining an optimal buffer size that depends on a streams bitrate, but does disclose the use of ATM and MPEG 2 for video transmission (column 9, lines 7-65). Metz discloses in Figure 6, a Set top box 100, which receives MPEG 2 video encapsulated in ATM cells that encapsulated by ATM multiplexer 29, an ATM demux and MPEG system demux 127 within the STB 100 reassembles the MPEG video/audio prior to it being supplied to audio decoder 131 and video decoder 129 (column 16, line 48-column 17, line 16, column 32, lines 4-31). Metz inherently includes a buffer, as a buffer is required to store the ATM cells prior to reassembling the cells into MPEG 2 streams. Raychauduri discloses a data link control layer in which buffer

Art Unit: 2611

size is determined by the bit rate for the transmitted ATM stream (column 7, line 35-column 8, line 3). Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Howe to transmit MPEG 2 video encapsulated in ATM cells which is converted back into MPEG 2 video at the Set Top Box as taught by Metz and to include the ATM buffer size bit rate determination as taught by Raychauduri, thus insuring that a buffer would not underflow/overflow resulting in the improper display of a video image.

Regarding claims 2 and 8, Raychauduri discloses that the buffer size determination is made as part of the Data link Control layer in a wireless ATM system. Raychauduri's DLC layer is inherently part of a program to be executed by the processor as the DLC layer is part of the header file for a packet and programming is required in order to recognize that layer.

Regarding claims 3 and 9, Howe discloses a set top box 100 in figure 8, which receives an analog or digital video signal. Howe/ Metz/Raychauduri inherently executes the buffer sizing program when the power is turned on as Raychauduri detects the type of data being received and allocates the buffer sized based upon the bit rate, if Raychauduri did not check that function and received various streams of different bit rates, the buffer would over/underflow.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 10, and 11, Howe discloses the use of non-volatile memory 1214 for storing information (column 21, lines 1-29). Howe does not disclose storing the buffer size-determining program in non-volatile memory, but does disclose memory 1229 and 1230 for storing system software (column 22, lines 11-29).

Art Unit: 2611

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Howe/Metz to utilize non-volatile memory for storing system software and the buffer sizing feature of Raychauduri, thus insuring that the buffer sizing function would be enabled even after powering the receiver on/off.

Regarding claim 14, Howe discloses a set top box 100 in figure 8, which receives an analog or digital video signal. Metz discloses a STB 100, which converts, received ATM cells back into their original MPEG 2 streams. Raychauduri discloses that the buffer size determination is made as part of the Data link Control layer in a wireless ATM system. Raychauduri's DLC layer is inherently part of a program to be executed by the processor as the DLC layer is part of the header file for a packet and programming is required in order to recognize that layer. Raychauduri inherently executes the buffer sizing program when the power is turned on as Raychauduri detects the type of data being received and allocates the buffer sized based upon the bit rate, if Raychauduri did not check that function and received various streams of different bit rates, the buffer would over/underflow.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hunter B. Lonsberry whose telephone number is 703-305-3234. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone numbers

Art Unit: 2611

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-5359 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.



ANDREW FAILE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

HBL  
June 30, 2003